

NOMENCLATURAL CHANGES IN ORCUTTIA (GRAMINEAE)

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In 1936, R. F. Hoover (Madroño 3: 229) described Orcuttia inaequalis, citing as type one of his own collections from near Montpellier in Stanislaus County, California. Five years later (Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 68: 149—156. 1941) he transferred the species to varietal status under O. californica Vasey. In this latter publication two additional taxa were described as new. One of these was O. californica var. viscida, the type a Hoover specimen from Sacramento County, seven miles south of Folsom. The other taxon, O. pilosa, is not relevant to the present discussion.

Since 1941, botanists who have been concerned with the genus have generally followed the treatment of Hoover regarding Orcuttia californica and its varieties (cf. Hitchcock, A. S., U.S.D.A. Misc. Publ. 200, 1951; Mason, H. L., A Flora of the Marshes of California, 1957; Munz, P. A., A California Flora, 1959; Crampton, B., Madroño 15: 97—110. 1959). Recent study, however, indicates that these taxa are more realistically treated as distinct species. Each has a characteristic chromosome number, and the caryopses differ significantly in size. Moreover, morphological differences among these taxa appear to be as great as those which separate other species in the genus. The appropriate names for the three taxa under discussion, therefore, are:

ORCUTTIA CALIFORNICA Vasey, Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 13: 219. 1886.

Type: Orcutt in 1886, Mexico, Baja California Norte.

ORCUTTIA INAEQUALIS Hoover, Madroño 3: 229. 1936.

O. californica Vasey var. inaequalis (Hoover) Hoover, Bull.

Torrey Bot. Club 68: 154. 1941. Type: Hoover 582.

ORCUTTIA VISCIDA (Hoover) J. Reeder, comb. nov.

O. californica Vasey var. viscida Hoover, Bull. Torrey Bot.

Club 68: 155. 1941. Type: Hoover 3709.

Documented chromosome numbers for the above three species are listed below. When collections are from the same general area they represent different vernal pools and, therefore, distinct populations. Collection numbers are those of J. R. & C. G. Reeder.

O. californica ($2n = 32$)

Mexico: Baja California Norte, mesa near Colonet, 7208, 7209.

O. inaequalis ($2n = 24$)

USA: California, Madera Co., 8 mi N of Pinedale, 6215; 7 mi N of Pinedale, 6216; 4.5 mi S of Jct. of State Hwys. 145 and 41, 6661. Stanislaus Co., 4 mi E of Waterford, 6252.

O. viscida ($2n = 28$)

USA: California, Sacramento Co., 3 mi N of Jct. of State Hwy. 16 on Grant Line Rd., NW of Sloughhouse, 6234, 6664, 6665, 6666.